



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: Riza Selenica

Birmingham Dry Cleaner's Diverted Income Scheme Lands Him in Jail

Riza Selenica, 38, of Birmingham, Michigan was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment, followed by two years supervised release announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation .

Mr. Selenica was also fined \$30,000 and must cooperate with the Internal Revenue Service in filing all his tax returns and pay all back taxes, including interest and penalties. The sentence was handed down by United States District Court Judge Robert H. Cleland.

According to court records, during 1996 through 1998, Mr. Selenica owned and operated Euro Express, a dry cleaning and shirt laundering business, which were located in Birmingham and Southfield, Michigan. Several customers paid for his laundry services in the form of checks. Rather than deposit these checks into his business bank account and report it as income, he took them to a local check cashing service where they were negotiated for cash. During these years, Mr. Selenica filed false 1996, 1997 and 1998 federal income tax returns claiming \$0.00 gross income or, as on the 1998 return, showing gross income of \$48,747, when his joint taxable income with his spouse during those years totaled over \$980,000. Total tax loss to the Internal Revenue Service was calculated at approximately \$325,000.

Mr. Aouate stated, "Intentionally diverting income and not paying your fair share in taxes is a serious IRS matter that can have severe consequences, including imprisonment. IRS Criminal Investigation will continue to direct their efforts at the portion of Americans who

willfully and intentionally violate this known legal duty. "

Mr. Murphy commended the special agents of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation for their work in this investigation. Assistant United States Attorneys Richard L. Delonis prosecuted the case.